

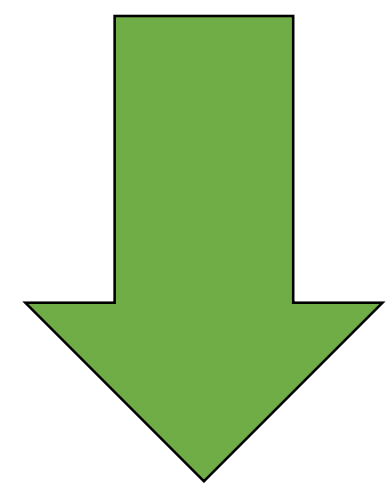
# The Correspondence Network of Johannes a Lasco (1499-1560)

By Quinn Palmer, Howard Louthan, and Alison Link

University of Minnesota – Department of History – Center for Austrian Studies

## Introduction:

This UROP project incorporates aspects of the Digital Humanities to analyze the ego-network of a Polish theologian during the Reformation. The goal of this project is to take indexical records of letters and create a graph of that data in order discover key actors and determine the importance of the relationships between them. Upon examining the data, I have been able to find that this ego-centered social network frequently breaks off into several smaller networks that incorporate groups of actors who all played important roles in the Reformation, but as I further examine the data I hope pursue more historical inquiry to see how the network evolved in time and space through a Lasco's lifetime of travels throughout Europe.



## Important Terms:

Digital Humanities – Academic field that combines computational tools and humanistic disciplines

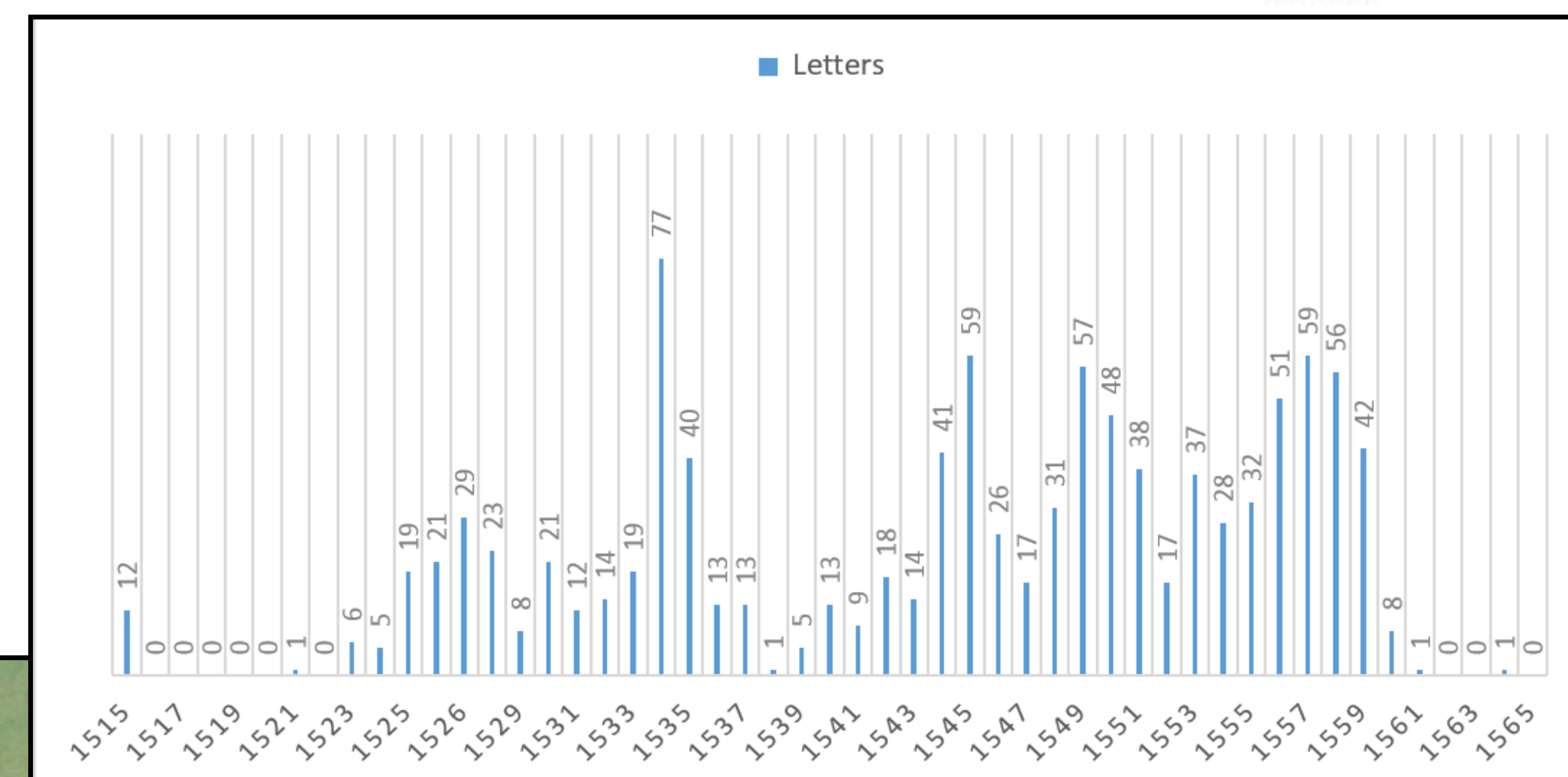
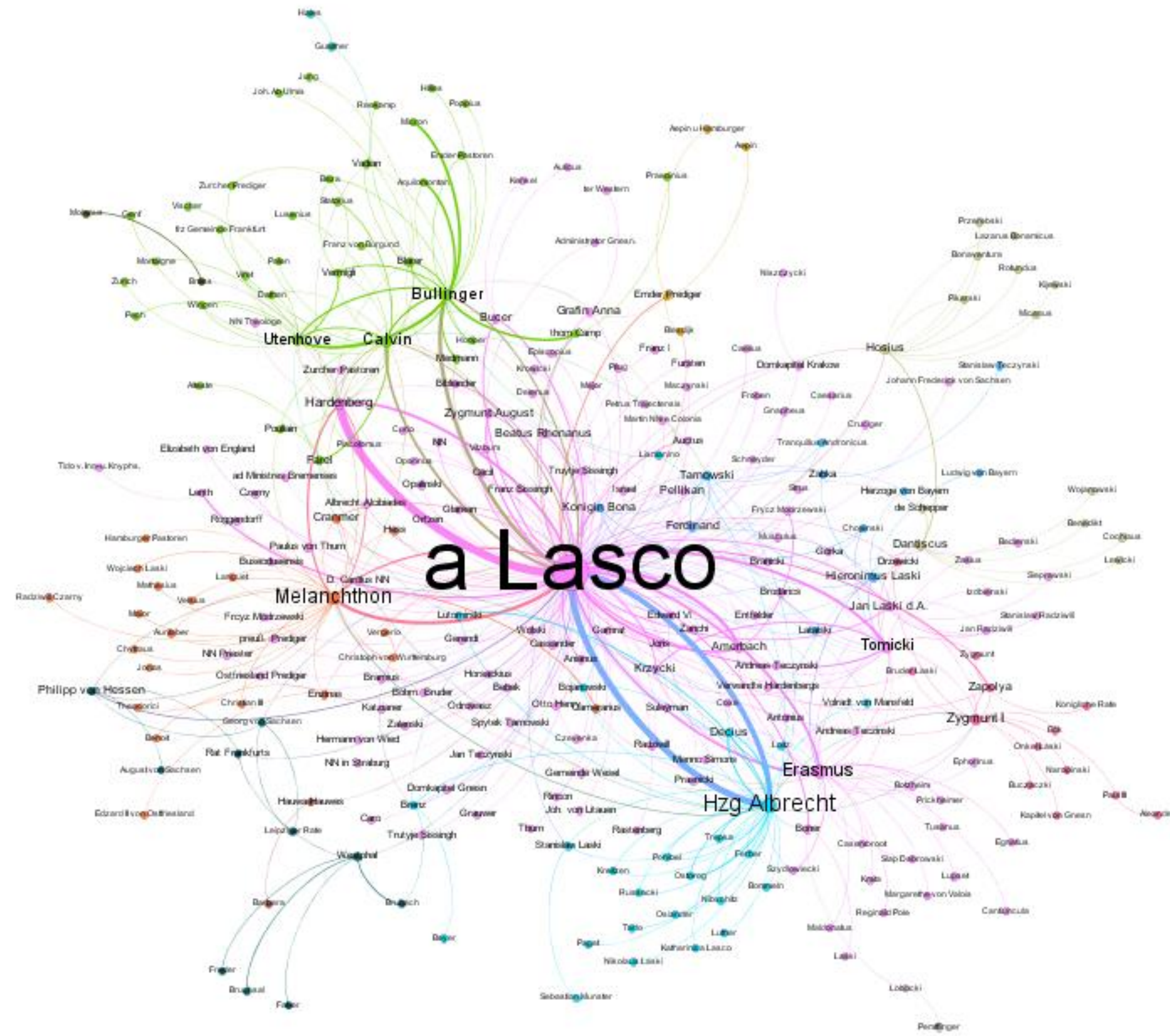
Nodes – In this project each node, or circular point, represents an individual, also called “actors”

Edges – Lines that indicate a connection between nodes

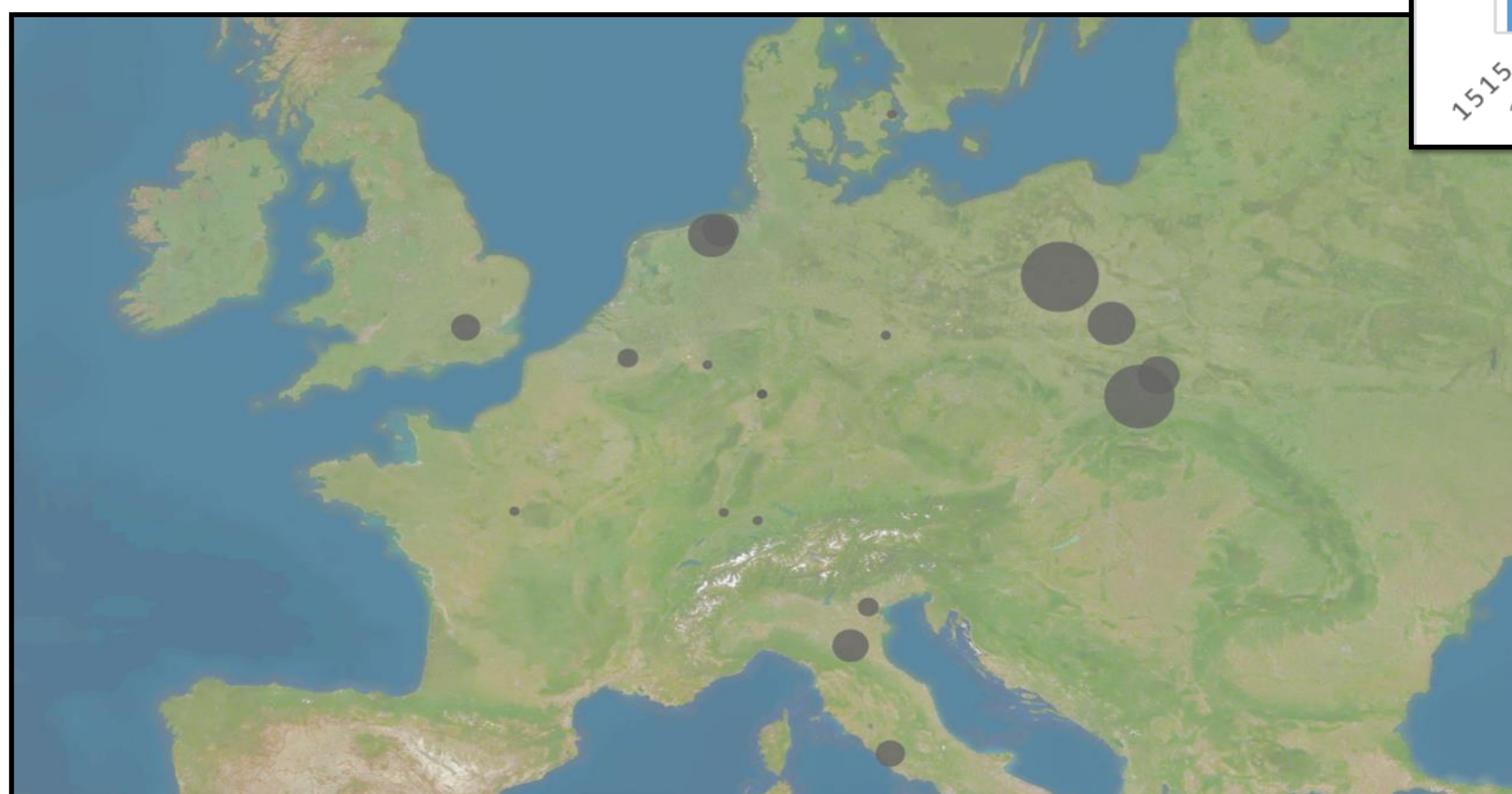
Directed – when the relationship between nodes has direction (i.e. a Lasco sends a letter to Erasmus)

Degree – Key property of a node, indicating the number of links contributed to it

Average Path Length – Average distance between all pairs of nodes

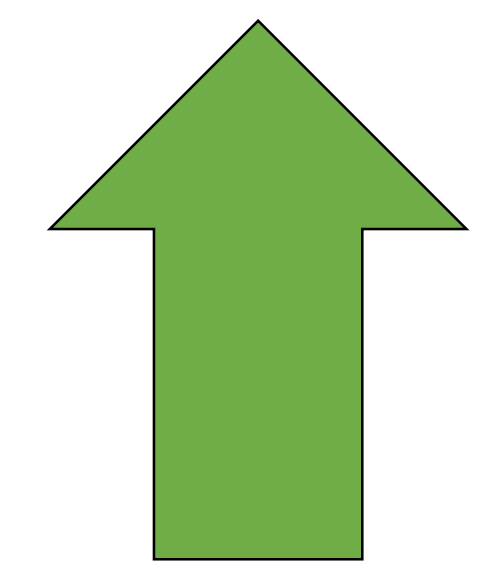


Map 1 (left) = a Lasco's travels weighted by years spent there  
Graph 1 (top) = letters sent in the network per year (1515-1564)  
Map 2 (right) = a Lasco's travels weighted by years spent there



## Further Study:

These visualizing techniques might be used for mapping other social networks. It may also be beneficial to investigate the social networks of humanists who corresponded with a Lasco during his lifetime. Further investigations into the travels of a Lasco may also allow for weighted graphs of his travels to become more accurate.



## Results:

Average Path Length: 2.89

Average Degree: 1.63

Network Diameter: 7

Connected Components: 5

Key Actors: a Lasco, Erasmus, Hg. Albrecht, Melanchthon, Calvin, Bullinger

Secondary Networks: Bullinger  
Calvin, Melanchthon, Hg. Albrecht, Erasmus, Hosius, Enzinas

